

Content

2010/11 uplift	1
Fit for the Future.....	3
Fit Notes.....	4
General election hustings – Norwich 21 April	6
GP Trainees Newsletter.....	4
GPC Annual Report	3
GPC meeting	1
H1N1 vaccines for travel use.....	3
“Making the most of being a salaried GP” seminars	5
Media coverage report	6
New GP and Pharmacy guides published	4
Patient group directions	1
Practice boundaries	2
Sessional GPs Representation Working Group	2
Summary Care Record	2

GPC meeting

The GPC met on 15 April 2010 and this newsletter provides a summary of the main items discussed.

2010/11 uplift

Following the publication of the DDRB report, the method for uplifting contract prices in 2010/11 remains under discussion. We will let you know as soon as there is further news.

Patient group directions

Following thorough analysis of the regulations governing the use of patient group directions (PGDs) by the BMA Legal Department, draft guidance on the use of PGDs in general practice has been considered by the GPC. The committee's comments and views will be fed into a redraft of the guidance which will be made available to LMCs shortly.

Summary Care Record (SCR)

The GPC today received an assurance from the Department of Health that the upload of the Summary Care Record in PCTs subject to accelerated roll-out will be suspended. The Department of Health informed the GPC that records will not be uploaded in PCTs subject to accelerated roll-out until there is greater public and professional awareness.

The committee is very pleased that Connecting for Health has listened to its concerns and welcomes the decision to suspend uploads. We will be working with the Department of Health in future to ensure that GPC's concerns about the Summary Care Record continue to be listened to and addressed.

The letter from the BMA to the Minister for Health, Mike O'Brien, setting out the BMA/GPC's concerns was an appendix to last month's GPC News. We will keep LMCs informed of developments.

Please see the attached press release from today:

<http://web2.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wlu/SGOY-84KDBL?OpenDocument&vw=wfmms>

Practice boundaries

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State last year that all boundaries would be removed from general practice, the Department of Health has now released a consultation on how this could be done. The GPC debated the proposals and passed a motion stating that:

'GPC has carefully considered the current proposals for the removal of practice boundaries and has concluded that:

- they put the quality of patient care and patient safety at risk
- they will undermine continuity of care
- they will disrupt practice based commissioning
- they will increase NHS costs and introduce inefficient and ineffective demands on resources

GPC therefore rejects the proposals.'

This position will be incorporated into the GPC's response to the consultation. We will also put forward solutions which we consider to be preferable as detailed in the position paper we published in January.

Sessional GPs Representation Working Group

The Sessional GPs Representation Working Group, set up to by the GPC to review the representation of sessional GPs on a national and local level, continues to make good progress. It is currently considering the preliminary findings from a survey that was sent out to sessional GP BMA members regarding representative and contractual issues. The working group hopes to report on its recommendations by the end of the current session.

GPC Annual Report

This year's GPC Annual Report has been published on the BMA's website:
http://www.bma.org.uk/about_bma/annual_reports/gpcannreport2010.jsp

H1N1 vaccines for travel use

Professor Salisbury, Director of Immunisation at the Department of Health has sent a letter to all GPs informing of provision of the H1N1 swine flu vaccine for protection of travellers to Southern Hemisphere countries. Practices can use their existing stocks of H1N1 vaccine as a travel vaccine for members of the public intending to travel to the Southern Hemisphere during their influenza season. GPs are able to charge patients for administration of the vaccine and GPs can set their own rates for this service.

Note the paragraphs in the appendix which state that:

Whilst GPs can generally charge patients for administering an H1N1 vaccine in connection with travel abroad, if the contractor is participating in the Swine Flu directed enhanced service or any local enhanced service that provides for a payment in relation to an H1N1 vaccination, no charge can be made to:

- patients in the priority groups defined in the Swine Flu directed enhanced service; or
- patients who are in a group covered by any local scheme under which the contractor is paid for administering the H1N1 vaccine.

Patients in these groups should receive the vaccination free of charge in accordance with the directed enhanced service or in accordance with the local agreement even if their request is related to travel abroad.

The letter can be found on the DH website at the following link:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_114372.pdf

Fit for the Future

The GPC has published a 50-point plan for the future of general practice in the UK. Fit for the Future: The Evolution of General Practice sets out the committee's current thinking on a number of policy areas, including out-of-hours care, quality and outcomes framework, workforce and IT. The full document and the executive summary, as well as a podcast from Laurence Buckman, can be accessed via the following link: http://www.bma.org.uk/healthcare_policy/fitforfuture.jsp

New GP and Pharmacy guides published

NHS Employers, the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) have produced two guides to support GPs and community pharmacists in developing more effective working relationships.

The guide to pharmacy for GPs is designed to increase awareness of the work of community pharmacies and to encourage joint working. You may also find it beneficial in educating trainee GPs about community pharmacy. The second guide provides an overview on general practice for community pharmacists.

The guides, on the work of community pharmacists and GPs, cover the following areas:

- the funding and contractual arrangements for pharmacists and GPs
- the range of clinical and administrative functions that each profession provides
- various staff roles and responsibilities
- training and qualifications
- the key national bodies
- where to get more information on each profession.

The two guides are available on-line only at the following link, along with a letter to GPs (attached) from NHS Employers, the PSNC and GPC, introducing the guides:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/PayAndContracts/CommunityPharmacyContract/Pages/professional-relationships-guides.aspx>

Following the joint letter last year, we would also encourage you to meet your local pharmacy colleagues to discuss ways in which you may be able to work together to enhance patient care. If you have any comments about the guide, please email pharmacy@nhsemployers.org.

We would be grateful if LMCs could disseminate this as widely as possible.

Fit notes

As of 6 April 2010, the Med 3 and Med 5 medical statements have been replaced with the new Statement of Fitness for Work. The DWP has produced a short guide on these changes, which can be accessed here: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/fitnote>

GP Trainees Newsletter

The spring 2010 edition of the GP Trainees Subcommittee Newsletter is now available on the BMA website. It includes articles on the DDRB and extending training. Please see http://www.bma.org.uk/ni/representation/branch_committees/general_prac/gptraineesnewsspring.jsp

“Making the most of being a salaried GP” seminars

June – November 2010

The BMA is organising a series of seminars aimed specifically at salaried GPs.

These events aim to:

- Advise on employment rights for nGMS, PMS, APMS and PCO-employed GPs – including sickness, maternity and redundancy issues, as well as giving general guidance on contractual rights following maternity leave and at the end of FCS and Retainer Scheme funding.
- Outline in detail the benefits of the model/minimum salaried GP contract negotiated by the BMA, and how to ensure that at least these minimum are obtained.
- Provide helpful tips for successful negotiations on salary, terms and conditions, and contract changes for use with current and new employers, with practice sessions.
- Provide an interactive setting, with the opportunity for delegates to ask questions on the day.

Could you please indicate on the registration form whether you are in a GMS, PMS or APMS practice, this will enable the speakers to tailor their advice appropriately.

Dates of seminars

Friday 4 June 2010	BMA House, London
Tuesday 7 September 2010	Bar Convent, York
Monday 20 September 2010	Birmingham Medical Institute, Birmingham
Monday 11 October 2010	Park Inn Hotel, Brighton
Monday 25 October 2010	Park Plaza Hotel, Nottingham
Tuesday 9 November 2010	Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester
Monday 15 November 2010	Southampton Solent University, Southampton

Registration Fees

The costs to attend these half day seminars are as follows:

£46.00 including VAT for BMA members

£80.50 including VAT for Non-members

A sandwich lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please note that non-members are entitled to the BMA rate if they join the BMA when registering. For further information about this please call BMA Conferences on 020 7383 6605/6137.

To book your place please complete and return the attached registration form (appendix1).

General election hustings - Norwich 21 April

The BMA Eastern Regional Council has organised a general election hustings event in Norwich on Wednesday 21 April at 7pm in the lecture theatre, Thomas Paine Study Centre, Norwich. This will be an opportunity for BMA members to question parliamentary candidates about their policies for the NHS. The following prospective parliamentary candidates for Norwich South will be attending:

- Charles Clarke, Labour
- Antony Little, Conservative
- Adrian Ramsay, Green
- Simon Wright, Liberal Democrat

Each candidate will be invited to speak on their priorities for the NHS and then respond to questions from BMA members. This event will give doctors who live and/or work in Norwich the chance to influence the debate about the future direction of the NHS after the General Election.

Do come along to this important event. Tea and coffee available from 6.30pm. Directions to the venue and car parking permit are available in appendix 2.

Media coverage report

Please find attached (appendix 3) a GPC media coverage report prepared by the BMA's press office, detailing GPC media activity during the last few weeks.

The GPC next meets on 20 May 2010, and LMCs are invited to submit items for discussion. You may like to review these, beforehand, with the representatives in your area who serve on the GPC. The closing date for items is 11 May 2010. It would be helpful if items could be emailed to Julie Goodway at jgoodway@bma.org.uk . You may also like to use the GPC's listservers to exchange views and ideas.

GPC News

GPC News is available via the Internet, via the BMA's web pages: www.bma.org.uk

LMCs are reminded that their regional representatives can provide more detailed information about the issues covered in GPC News, and other matters. Other members of the GPC would also be pleased to accept invitations to LMC meetings wherever possible. Their names and addresses are in the GPC Yearbook. The secretariat can also provide a written background brief if required, but it would be helpful to have such requests well in advance of your meetings.

Finally, if LMCs require assistance on local issues, they can also contact the BMA's local offices: addresses are on page 3 of the GPC's yearbook.

This newsletter has been sent to:

- Secretaries of LMCs and LMC offices
- Members of the GPC
- Members of the GP trainees subcommittee
- Members of the sessional GPs subcommittee